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**Collection:** Blackwell, Morton: Files  
**Folder Title:** [School Prayer] (1 of 10)  
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# PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233

## Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Blackwell, Morton C.: Files

OA/Box: ~~9087~~ 9081

File Folder: [School Prayer] (1)

Archivist: kdb

FOIA ID: F05-103/1, Haberman

Date: 4/9/07

*gr 4/20/08*

| DOCUMENT<br>NO. & TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                                 | DATE               | RESTRICTION                                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <del>A memo</del>      | <del>Edwin Harper to Elizabeth Dole re conservative social agenda<br/>(w/notations), dp</del> | <del>3/16/82</del> | <del><i>grnd<br/>08/17/2005<br/>x</i></del> |

END Cnar/Mar  
Red Event File  
Morton B  
Diana L.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

4/30/82

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE \*\*\*\*\*  
FROM: *JJR for* GREGORY J. NEWELL  
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: National Day of Prayer Observance

DATE: May 6, 1982

TIME: 1:45 pm

DURATION: 10 minutes

LOCATION: Rose Garden or East Room

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY  
PARTICIPATION: Optional

**REMARKS REQUIRED**

\*\*\*\*\* Coordinate with Muffie Brandon

cc: A. Bakshian  
M. Brandon  
R. Darman  
R. DeProspero  
K. Duberstein  
D. Fischer  
C. Fuller  
E. Hickey  
M. McManus  
E. Rollins  
C. Romero  
B. Shaddix  
L. Speakes  
S. Studdert  
WHCA Audio/Visual  
WHCA Operations  
R. Williamson  
N. Wormser  
A. Wrobleski

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

(Requested at  
Staff Meeting)

5/6 at  
1:45

yes

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

April 21, 1982

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE *[Signature]* Date: 5/6/82  
Time: 1:45

REQUEST: Rose Garden Ceremony Length: 10 min

PURPOSE: To deliver a Presidential statement on the subject of voluntary school prayer. Date: 4/29/82 GJN

BACKGROUND: May 6, 1982 has been designated by the President as the National Day of Prayer, and a Presidential proclamation has been issued to commemorate this date. This event provides an appropriate backdrop for the President to deliver a statement in support of voluntary school prayer.

Various religious forums were considered for this statement, but it was determined that a more broad-based format would provide an opportunity for a wide scope of participation from groups (veterans, ethnics, conservatives, etc.) who have been supportive of the President's position on voluntary school prayer.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None

DATE: May 6, 1982 (10 min)

LOCATION: Rose Garden (East Room back-up) - East-7064

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 200 individuals and representatives or organizations which have supported voluntary school prayer.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: The guests assemble in the Rose Garden; the President enters and reads a statement with the press in attendance; the President departs.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Formal statement.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Full press

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth Dole, Edwin Harper

OPPOSED BY: None

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 3, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR SOCIAL OFFICE

FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Additions to the Invitation List for  
the Rose Garden Event on Thursday, May 6

Mrs. Karen Davis \*

Box 1224  
Fort Worth, TX 75202

Dr. Cecil Todd  
Revival Fires  
1200 N. Main  
Joplin, Missouri 64801  
Phone 417 624-0749

Mr. and Mrs. Roy McKasson  
6725 Bellamy Avenue  
Springfield, Virginia 22152  
(703) 451-5252

- \* While I was making this list, Karen Davis called to the Social Office to explain she should have been on the list instead of her husband. Listed now as Mr. Cullen Davis and should have been either Mr. & Mrs. or Mrs. Only she is coming to Washington so nothing need be done about her. Just wanted her properly on the list. The other two are additions. Sorry to be so late but it is important they be invited.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5/5/82

Attached are copies of the working list we are extending invitations to for National Prayer Day Observance ceremony tomorrow.

Sorry for the rough form in which this is provided.

Annie Lou Hughes  
Legislative Affairs  
#2230

MEMORANDUM

✓ = Accept  
X = Decline  
? = Not sure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 3, 1982

TO: KENNETH M. DUBERSTEIN

FROM: PAMELA J. TURNER  
M. B. OGLESBY, JR. *PO*

SUBJECT: Invites for Voluntary School Prayer Event

Following is a list of Senators and Congressmen who should be invited to any event on school prayer:

Senators:

X Howard Baker (R-Tennessee)  
✓ Strom Thurmond (R-South Carolina)  
✓ Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina)  
? X John East (R-North Carolina)  
✓ Bill Roth (R-Delaware)  
X Roger Jepsen (R-Iowa)  
X Bill Armstrong (R-Colorado)

Neither Baker nor Thurmond have been particularly active on this issue; however, Baker should be offered the opportunity to attend as Majority Leader and Thurmond is the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Regrettably, we have no Democrats who have been particularly active on this issue. Cannon is the only one who has co-sponsored anything, but even he has not been an active supporter. I have discussed this with Bill Gribbin, and have incorporated his suggestions. If we come up short on our list of 40, I would suggest adding the following Senators, even though this is not a major issue with them.

? X Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)  
X Paul Laxalt (R-Nevada)  
X Jake Garn (R-Utah)  
X Jeremiah Denton (R-Alabama)

- ✓ = Accept

X = Decline

- 2657 - Unmarked = no reply yet - 2 -

The following Members are co-sponsors of Constitutional amendments which allow prayer in schools or of legislation which removes school prayer from the jurisdiction of the Federal courts:

Members:

- ✓ Clarence Miller (R-Ohio)
- ✓ Phil Crane (R-Illinois)
- ✓ Albert Lee Smith (R-Alabama)
- ✓ William Carney (R-New York)
- ✓ Gene Johnston (R-South Carolina)
- X Dan Crane (R-Illinois)
- X Mark Siljander (R-Michigan)
- Paul Tribble (R-Virginia)
- John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-Arkansas)
- George Hansen (R-Idaho)
- ✓ Marjorie Holt (R-Maryland)
- Donald Mitchell (R-New York)
- James Quillen (R-Tennessee)
- ✓ Bill Dannemeyer (R-California)
- ✓ Jim Jeffries (R-Kansas)
- ✓ Eldon Rudd (R-Arizona)
- X Bill Wampler (R-Virginia)
- Arlan Stangeland (R-Minnesota)
- ✓ Bill Young (R-Florida)
- ✓ Earl Hutto (D-Florida)
- X Kika de la Garza (D-Texas)
- X Don Fuqua (D-Florida)
- X Larry McDonald (D-Georgia)
- X Robert Mollohan (D-West Virginia)
- X Bill Nichols (D-Alabama)
- ✓ Bill Chappell (D-Florida)
- ✓ *Clare Benedict*

In addition, the following should be included as part of the House GOP Leadership:

- X Bob Michel (R-Illinois)
- Trent Lott (R-Mississippi)

Also X Bob McClory (R-Illinois) should be invited as the Ranking Republican on House Judiciary Committee.

no Erleborn  
✓ Beard



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1982

MEMORANDUM TO ELIZABETH DOLE  
FROM: EDWIN L. HARPER  
SUBJECT: Conservative Social Agenda

Following up on your March 9th memo in which you suggested we pursue a couple of the issues on the conservative social agenda, I'm interested in your reaction of the possibility of our aggressively pursuing voluntary prayer in school and tuition tax credits. These two issues seem to have minimal downside and considerable upside potential for the President.

Red - Ed says  
10,000 Christians will  
meet in DC ~~at~~ at  
end of ~~the~~ April(?)  
Perhaps time for  
Please talk to  
Morton -

MAR 17 1982

MAR 20 1982

Morton - 3/22  
Do you know about the  
event Ed Harper mentions?  
Also, please comment on  
2 agenda items mentioned -  
Memo from EHO to Harper.  
Thanks - Diana

*Leadership Foundation*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1981

Dear Mrs. Haffner:

I'm pleased that you had such success with your petition in favor of school prayer legislation.

Unfortunately, the President's schedule does not permit him to personally receive all of the many delegations with excellent petitions addressed to him.

As Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, my duties for the President include liaison with religious and conservative groups. It is therefore quite appropriate for me to receive such petitions, and I frequently do so.

Please contact a member of my staff to set up a time for the presentation. I will be delighted to see you.

Cordially,

*Morton C. Blackwell*  
Morton C. Blackwell  
Special Assistant to  
the President

Mrs. Ann D. Haffner  
Executive Vice-President  
Leadership Foundation, Inc.  
7945 Mac Arthur Boulevard  
Cabin John, MD 20818

# LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

7945 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John, MD 20818  
(301) 229-8400

MARTHA ROUNTREE  
President

October 5, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell  
Special Assistant to the President  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

During the past two years the National Advisory Committee to Bring Back School Prayer, formed under the auspices of Leadership Action and Leadership Foundation to support legislation to allow voluntary prayer in school, has generated a tremendous amount of support for voluntary school prayer.

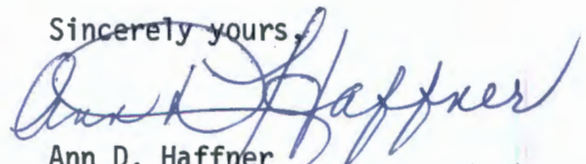
This support comes from telephone calls, letters and petitions to Congress and to the President. This year we presently have over 100,000 petitions to the President, asking him to support school prayer legislation. We would very much like to present these petitions to him personally or to his representative.

If you could arrange for Leadership to make this presentation sometime shortly after November 15th, as we have additional petitions due on that date, we would be most grateful.

Enclosed are copies of the petitions and some of the background research and informational materials Leadership has provided on voluntary school prayer during the past year.

Please let me hear from you when this presentation can be made.  
Many thanks!

Sincerely yours,

  
Ann D. Haffner  
Executive Vice President

Enclosures

ADH:ad

Petition to  
The President of the United States  
To Bring Back Voluntary School  
Prayer

President Reagan, I am a founding charter member of the National Advisory Committee to Bring Back School Prayer.

I urge you, as President, to do all you can to see that a new law is passed to allow children to pray in school if they want to.

We need to get drugs, sex, immorality, and disrespect for laws out of our schools and God back in our schools.

Signature

*Ben J. Mock*

Mr. Ben J. Mock



Petition to  
The President of the United States

to restore the right of voluntary prayer in the public schools

To: President Reagan

I am a founding charter member of the National  
Advisory Committee to Bring Back School Prayer.

I urge you, as newly elected President, to do all  
you can to see legislation is passed to allow voluntary  
prayers in school.

We need to get drugs, sex, immorality, and  
disrespect for laws out of our schools and God back in  
our schools.

Signature Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Shay  
Mrs. C. W. Shay . Staffor

This petition will be  
personally delivered to  
President Reagan by  
Leadership Action  
representatives.

*Leadership Foundation*

## REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge  
Appointments Center  
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on December 2, 19 81

for Morton C. Blackwell of Public Liaison :  
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (AGENCY)

MATTOX, Clifton Warren  
MATTOX, Richard  
HOUSTON, Thelma  
HAFFNER, Ann  
RENARD, Julie  
MILLER, Laura  
FREDERICK, Vera  
FREDERICK, Phyllis

*School Prayer Petitions*

### MEETING LOCATION

Building OEOB

Requested by Shortley

Room No. 191

Room No. 191 Telephone 2657

Time of Meeting 3 P.M.

Date of request December 1, 1981

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB -- 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE -- 456-6742



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1982

Reverend Richard W. Bridges, Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
621 E. Twelfth Street  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Dear Reverend Bridges:

Thank you for your letter of July 16 regarding the article in the Baptist Press headlined "McAteer Backed by White House".

You asked if the article were accurate. It is not.

Ed McAteer was not in communication with anyone at the White House respecting the particulars of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

Ed has been for years a strong supporter of restoring voluntary school prayer which the Supreme Court has outlawed, reversing 170 years of previous legality. He was one of those invited to the White House on the National Day of Prayer, May 6, when the President announced his intention to propose a constitutional amendment to restore voluntary school prayer.

At that event, Ed warmly predicted to me that the New Orleans convention would endorse the President's proposed amendment. Many others present also told me they were supporting the President's proposal. As was entirely appropriate, I thanked each cordially.

The article you sent me is both wrong and misleading. Although my wife is a Southern Baptist, she did not attend the convention. I did not know the process by which the convention considered resolutions nor did I know what action, if any, Ed, or any other person intended to take at the convention. Aside from Ed's prediction, the next information I received regarding that convention was the Washington Post story reporting that the convention had endorsed the President's proposed amendment by a three to one margin.

In sum, neither I nor anyone else at the White House asked anyone to take any action regarding the New Orleans convention. Nor did we have any knowledge of events there until after the fact.



The role of the Office of Public Liaison is to facilitate communications regarding public policy between the Administration and organized groups. We have sent leaders of all major interested groups information regarding the proposed amendment. Enclosed is one of our packets on this subject. As soon as it is printed, I will send you a White House Issue Update on this topic which has been prepared for Administration spokesmen.

Public opinion polls indicate 75% of Americans favor restoring voluntary school prayer. The amendment enjoys significant support from a broad variety of religious leaders such as Dr. Adrian Rogers. Secular groups such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have for years at their national conventions called for the kind of remedy the President has proposed. It is our hope that the Congress will act on this amendment this year and that the states will promptly ratify it.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to correct the error in the article which raised your concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morton C. Blackwell".

Morton C. Blackwell  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Public Liaison

Enclosure

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

621 E. Twelfth Street  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Richard W. Bridges  
Pastor

July 16, 1982

Telephone  
(502) 842-0331

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Would you review the enclosed news item, from the July 14 edition of the Illinois Baptist? Is it accurate or inaccurate?

If accurate, I would be most disturbed as a Southern Baptist and as a registered Republican. Mr. McAtter does not speak for Southern Baptists; the recent resolution in New Orleans on Constitutional Prayer Amendment is not representative of our heritage; and many of us are alarmed at this kind of manipulative intrusion by the political sector into our Convention life.

I want to be supportive of the President, but I would suggest that this particular issue will result in the erosion of support for him by many of us.

Could you clarify?

Sincerely,

RWB

# McAteer backed by White House

by Stan Hasty

WASHINGTON (BP) — An aide to President Reagan has confirmed that New Right leader Edward E. McAteer received White House encouragement to work for Southern Baptist Convention support of a constitutional amendment on school prayer.

Morton C. Blackwell, special assistant to the President, told Baptist Press that he and McAteer confer regularly and consulted before the New Orleans meeting. During that conversation, Blackwell said, McAteer predicted the SBC would endorse the prayer amendment.

Blackwell, whose primary duty is to line up support for Reagan policies as White House liaison to Christian and other religious groups and to conservative political organizations, told Baptist Press; "I thanked him very cordially."

In an interview immediately following the convention, McAteer told Baptist Press that a White House official, presumably Blackwell, called him two weeks before the New Orleans meeting, asking him if the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs would seek a resolution opposing the amendment and, if it did, to help deliver a resolution of support.

McAteer is founder and president of Religious Roundtable, an organization formed three years ago to work for New Right causes and support the candidacy of Ronald Reagan for president. The Southern Baptist layman, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, claims credit for recruiting prominent preachers, including Jerry Falwell, to New Right politics.

During his post-convention interview, McAteer declared of the resolution supporting the prayer amendment, "God intervened here today."



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1982

Dear Mr. Cord:

Thank you for your letter. I also enjoyed our meeting last month. It is not often that I am able to visit with such a capable scholar as you.

I am halfway through your excellent and useful book. My young intern informs me that he too has been reading your book and that he hopes to use your book as a starting point for legal research this fall.

Thank you again for visiting me last June. Best wishes for continued success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Public Liaison

Mr. Robert L. Cord  
160 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Mass. 02116



ROBERT L. CORD  
160 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

Thank him  
for letter  
& say I am  
half way through  
his excellent  
& useful  
book

July 19, 1982

Dear Mr. Hochstetler:

I am writing albeit belatedly  
to indicate that I enjoyed our con-  
versation of June the 14th.

More importantly I gave con-  
sideration to the point you made  
regarding "aid" v. a tax credit as a  
deduction. On reflection I changed  
my presentation in accordance  
with the copy enclosed because  
on balance you had a better point.

I hope you enjoy my book  
when you do get a chance to  
read it.

Sincerely,  
Bob L. Cord

Enc.

the laws perpetuating the United Brethren's services to the United States.

In the debate over the Packwood-Moynihan Bill or the Reagan tuition <sup>*Tax Credit*</sup> ~~bill~~

what is involved, is not a question of constitutionality but one of whether

<sup>*tax credits*</sup> such ~~as~~ to parents is wise or foolish public policy.

In their May editorial in the monthly periodical, Church and State,

Americans United for Separation of Church and State accused me of rewriting

history in my National Review cover story of January 22, 1982. If rewriting

history means probating historical facts long ignored or perhaps even un-

discovered then I am a rewriter of history. It is interesting to note that

little of the editorial was devoted to discussing the historical points

which I had made. As I have written elsewhere: "Scholarship may inadvertantly

contain errors, but errors discovered cannot be properly clothed with the

mantle of integrity endemic to a true scholarly dialogue."